(e) No. Sir.

(f) No need has been felt to give Constitutional status to the Law Commission.

[Translation]

Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

452. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to give long term extension to Maharashtra Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon, and

(c) if no action is taken so far the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have agreed to extend the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in Maharashtra for two years, from Ist July, 1996 to 30th June, 1998 with the stipulation that there will be no financial commitment on the part of Government of India and that, in the event of cotton prices falling below minimum support price (MSP) levels, no purchases of cotton will be made by the Cotton Corpration of India in Maharashtra during this period.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Bank Loan to Non-Existing Persons

453. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently sought detailed information from Faridkot-Bhatinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank for loaning lakhs of rupees to non-existing persons;

(b) if so, whether the bank has since furnished the information to the RBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that during the recovery proceedings it came to the notice of the management of Faridkot-Bhatinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank that some borrowers were not accepting liability outstanding in their names. The matter was investigated by the bank and it has reported that in 76 cases involving loan amount of Rs.6.52 lakhs, there was a doubt of misutilization/misappropriation. Some borrowers were not available at the given addresses.

(d) The Branch Manager concerned was advised by Bank Management to hand over charge of the branch to another officer. However, he was advised to make recovery only in the above mentioned 76 cases and report the progress of the recovery to the head office on a daily basis. The Bank has decided that efforts should be continued to recover the money involved in the fraud. So far, bank has recovered Rs.58,000/- from one supplier and Rs.27,000/- from the Branch Manager involved in the case. The bank has also decided that disciplinary action together with criminal proceedings by taking the help of district authorities may be initiated.

Depletion of the weight of Railways Wagons

454. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and the Indian Railways are incurring losses to the tune of Rs.700 crore a year because of the depletion of the weight of the railway wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the Ministry of Railways, the tare weight of wagons is measured at the time of periodic overhauls in the railway workships and discrepancy, if any, is corrected. The railways feel that the difference in the printed and actual tare weight in between the two overhauls is not significant.

Coal India Limited, however, feels that the difference between the printed and actual tare weight of wagons is not insignificant. This difference results is a substantial loss to it. Coal India Limited has taken up the matter with the concerned railway officials.

Export of Cars & Jeeps

455. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote the export of cars and jeeps, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). There is no exclusive scheme formulated to promote the export of cars and jeeps. However, promotion of exports of these items, like other goods in engineering sectos, has been the constant endeavour of the Ministry. Measures taken in this regard consist of various incentives provided in the Export-Import Policy. They are : Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme and Assistance from Market Development Fund